

Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Eliza Symonds Bell, September 15, 1886, with transcript

Letter from Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell to Mrs. Alexander Melville Bell. (envelope September 15, 1886) (Baddeck, N. S.) My dear Mrs. Bell:

Alec and I were very glad to hear from you and Mr. Bell the other day. So you have bought a house in Colonial Beach. Sister said last spring she thought the family had gone land mad and you and Mr. Bell seem to have caught the epidemic. We hope you will both take great pleasure and comfort in your new house. I wish I were at home to offer to help you house furnishing, I do so enjoy that, if I don't have to decide too much. We all hope to spend many pleasant days at "Tutelo Cottage" next year if not this. I wonder how long you would remain there.

We, Alec seems to think must remain here certainly a fortnight more. We shall hear definitely about our land on Monday, there has been vexatious delays owing to the Will of the late owner and the absence of one of the sons in Manitoba so we only hold twenty out of the seventy acres we want. After the law matters are settled there is the planting and the laying of foundations to be considered and this takes time. When we once leave here I should think Alec would hurry home, but we have not spoken of it being content to live in the present day now. I must however, wait awhile either in Boston or New York and hardly hope to get home before the end of October. Still of course our plans are always uncertain.

It is rather funny to have you and Mr. Bell still dwelling on Alec's accident when it made so little impression on us and we have forgotten it so long ago. I cannot now conceive how he escaped 2 with his life, it was a fearful accident, but the consequences as it happened were of the slightest. After being thrown from the wagon Alec walked two miles and was unable to feel himself hurt except for the slight uneasiness in the chest, an uneasiness so slight that after supper, the same day he walked again a long way fishing and then

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swimming. I doubt whether he would have ever felt more than a slight stiffness and weakness in the left arm if four days after the accident we had not gone out sailing alone in a sloop yacht and becoming becalmed he rowed it some distance. Since Charlie's visit here Alec has been able to take an immense amount of exercise rowing, walking and climbing and no longer feels any weakness. I think he is a capital swimmer and he is so careful about not going out in the water after a hearty meal that I don't think you need fear cramps for him. The water too is deliciously warm, the children go in every day, and remain a long time and are fast becoming swimmers. Elsie floats nicely already and kicks and splashes at a great rate. Alec has been sailing in his yacht several times but is very cautious and the gentleman of whom he bought it says it cannot be upset with the mainsail down.

I wish you would describe that wonderful churn of yours in which the butter came in five minutes without any labor. Alec can't remember anything about it.

have been followed by blackberries which are not quite so plentiful however. I have given up making jam and make jelly instead which I think is much better because all the stones are taken out. I am quite proud of my success in this line and need it to balance my sad failures in others. Now that Alec 3 has gone to Cow Bay for a few days on a definite pedigree hunt, I am going to attack for the third time a receipt which has twice failed me, although recommended as extremely simple!

We feel a reflected glory from Camp A. Melville Bell. Did you go there at all? I wonder if you were in Washington at the time of the earthquake, we are very much excited about it.

Affectionately yours, Mabel.